stated that Pakistan and India are heading for a conflict and that great dangers are seen in future, as stated in the Indian Express dated 14th March, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government have seen the report appearing in the Indian Express on 14th March, 2000. Such propagandist statements by Pakistani leaders are designed to deflect the increasing concern being expresed by the internatinal community about Pakistan's continued role in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. They are also meant to attract international attention so as to seek third party involvement, for which there is no place in India-Pakistan relations.

While Government will continue to scrupulously maintain its policy of restraint, it will effectively respond, as it has demonstrated in the past, to any threat to our territorial integrity.

Improving Standard in Engineering Colleges

3587. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Advisory Committee on Information Technology has recommended to improve the standard of 43 Engineering Colleges to the level of the Indian Institute of Technology; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to create an Information Technology education fund for this purpose and also for giving high quality education to students qualified in entrance test?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology has suggested to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to set up a Core Group to study all aspects of upgrading the 43 engineering colleges which have been identified for this purpose.